

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

RELEASE IN FULL AS SANITIZED

AIR TOUCH

HUL-A- 929 .

2003

~~SECRET~~
PBSUCCESS / RYBAT

26 May 1954

PBSUCCESS, Headquarters

LINCOLN

KUGOWN

Report on ESSENCE Activities

Enclosed herewith is a further report on the activities of the ESSENCE group. This is a letter from ESSENCE to [] dated 24 April, which was written in response to [] request for ideas and plans.

WILLIAM D. FLAYDON

WDP/ Elmer F. LUKETY/ sgw

25 May 1954

Distribution:

3 - WASH (w/att)
2 - LINC (w/att)

~~SECRET~~
PBSUCCESS/RYBAT

~~SECRET~~

24 April 1954

Esteemed []:

Three days ago I received your short letter asking me for a series of facts and ideas: I beg your pardon for not having written before and for not having written periodically, but I did not do so in order to avoid unnecessary dangers. As I have always told our mutual friends, I am completely devoted to the cause and they can always count on me to do the best that I can do with that which is intrusted to me.

In regard to those facts for which you have asked me on different occasions, I have passed them to our friend so that he may pass them to you at once.

The newspaper is coming along very well: there is more demand for it in the Departments every day and I believe that it is meeting with a good reception among the campesinos. The same problems continue, as always. I beg of you to send me articles from time to time in order to save me some work.

The radio programs continue, the problems concerning which I have directed that you be informed in the usual manner. As a result of the destruction of Radio International, where they were broadcasting, I have taken steps to see that they go on the air as soon as possible; I hope that this broadcasting station will be carrying our program at the latest in three days. The person who assaulted the Radio International was the Chief of Arrests, Civil Guard, Reginaldo ARCHILA (confirmed).

I have been providing the different filials with sufficient propaganda and all else that may be necessary for their work.

Everything is going well with regard to "black" propaganda, considering what is possible. I have had many of my boys arrested; some of these after being released are afraid and do not continue working; each day it becomes more difficult to obtain recruits for work; everyone hopes for something more than propaganda and they do not want to expose themselves for things when they cannot see the conclusion -- especially in the Departments where the authorities are greatly annoying. There are about 10 imprisoned by now as a result of the last operation and three automobiles are decommissioned.

I have succeeded in obtaining a substitute for that eventuality in which I might not be available; but I do not expect to be forced to leave except in a very extreme case.

I maintain individuals in our political parties so that in an indirect way they give instructions and try to see to it that the work is carried out along the same lines.

I keep a group of people going back and forth to the Departments in order to see to it that propaganda is well distributed and that they don't lack for anything.

The rumor campaign continues and has already had some results, as I have notified the one with whom I correspond.

In Salama we have done that which we could do to maintain the morale of the boys, but that which we could do was very little and always in an indirect way in order to prevent the spies who are with the prisoners from finding out anything. Their situation is very difficult.

With regard to your requests -- that I should submit a budget and ideas for the future tasks we must develop -- I have not wanted to do anything for we are in a difficult and insecure situation and I do not dare to offer a plan which cannot be carried out satisfactorily later. I think the best thing is to continue our work with all the force we can and to adapt these tasks to the circumstances of each day. You can be sure that we shall not lose one opportunity nor one moment in drawing out the greatest advantage from each event.

I have already taken steps to arrange to recruit for propaganda those persons on the Western Side (in the two places) about whom you asked me.

With regard to the budget, I shall try to draw up the most appropriate one as soon as possible and I shall send it through the usual channel. In this respect, it is a shame to say it of our fellow-citizens but it is difficult to get them to do anything without supplying them with the means; as I have been telling you, there has already entered Guatemala the disease (of relying on) that which will come from abroad; everything is now ready and no one wishes to expose himself now to do things which seem pale in comparison with that which they expect.

In connection with the same problem is our friend's request for a receipt in order to show that I receive all that is necessary. In this manner I have to inform him that everything arrives ok. The complaints, which may have given way to doubt, may be motivated by the fact that the person who formerly settled the accounts passed his list of obligations to me very quickly and some persons may possibly not have been contacted. On the other hand, I have tried to give money piecemeal, and only in accord with a list of expenses, to those persons whom I observed did not comply (with their tasks) or who made poor use of money, a thing which annoys more than one person. Furthermore, and as a principle, I never tell them that I can give them what they ask me for on the first request, for if some spy penetrates us it would be dangerous not to be able to show where the money comes from. Furthermore, to give money freely attracts unscrupulous people and harms those who are working without personal interest. A third point is that it could give doubts, as above. In a letter to our old, now withdrawn friend, I indicated that four remittances had been sent to me for the expenses of

the propaganda work (this was in the days of the change-over). I did not receive this sum and therefore communicated this to our friend who asked me more than once. I told him furthermore that I would prefer not to receive any sum without some predetermined purpose in order not to have such problems in the future; I told him also that that which was necessary was that the money be given to me so that everything would remain in one place, centralized. I do not know of any more than those four incidents and there may be another side to the matter.

I wish to ask you to do me the favor of greeting my friends on the other side for I do not write to anyone. I beg your pardon for the too elegant form of these lines and the dry style and the poor organization of this letter. You may be sure, as I have told you before, that all that can be done here will be done -- "cost what it may cost", as I have told our beloved friends.

Your friend,

ESSENCE